



# Knocking at the College Door

## Projections of High School Graduates

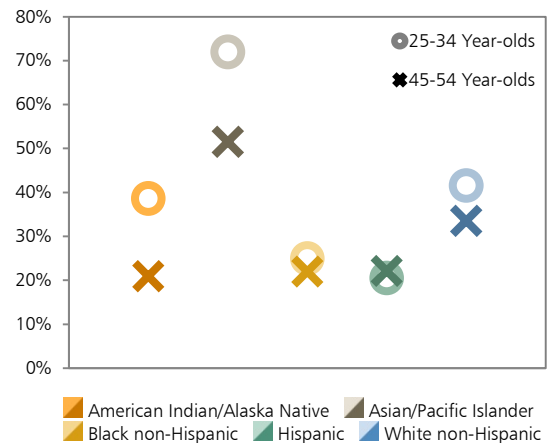
### MISSOURI

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Missouri related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

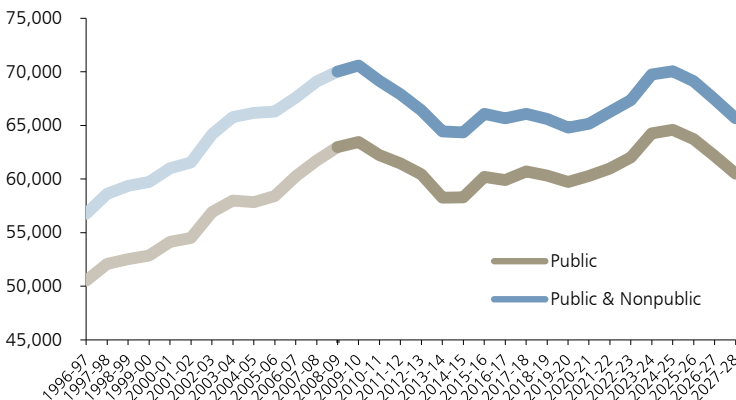
#### Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

Workforce projections indicate there will be a growing demand for well-educated labor, which means that younger adults need to be as well as or more educated than older adults given how much longer they will need to be employed. Among adults ages 25-34 and 45-54 in Missouri between 2008 and 2010, overall 39% of younger adults have a postsecondary degree, roughly 7 percentage points more than the 32% of older adults.

- Younger adults in three racial/ethnic groups have a particular advantage. 18% more American Indian/Alaska Native young adults have postsecondary degrees than their older counterparts (39% and 21%, respectively). Among Asian/Pacific Islanders, 72% of younger and 52% of older adults have degrees; among White non-Hispanics, 42% of younger and 34% of older adults have degrees.
- Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic adults of both age groups are at the greatest disadvantage with lower educational attainment rates than the overall state rates.



#### Production of High School Graduates

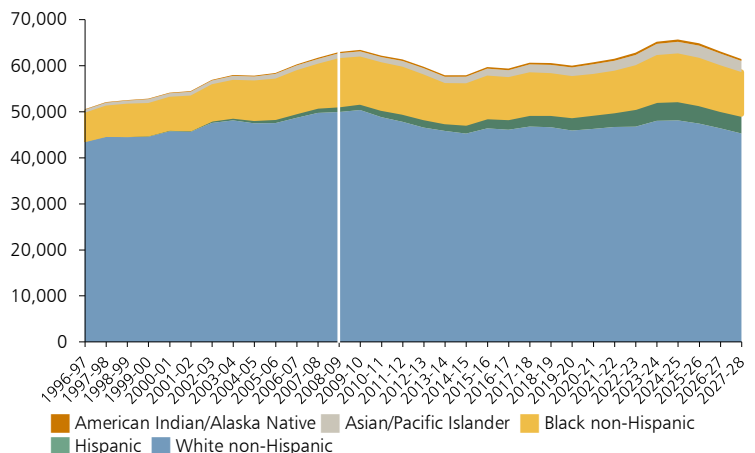


- According to our projections, Missouri's high school graduating class peaked in 2009-10 at 70,600.
- After dropping back to 64,500 graduates by 2013-14, Missouri is projected to then see relatively stable production around 65,500 graduates throughout most of the remaining projected years, except for some increases in the five years between 2021-22 and 2026-27 which ultimately drops back to previous production.
- 10% of Missouri's graduates in 2008-09 were from nonpublic high schools, about 7,000. Nonpublic graduates will decrease to about 8% of the total by 2027-28, dropping to only 5,200.

#### Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

While Missouri's public high school graduating classes are projected to diversify somewhat over the projected period, White non-Hispanic graduates will continue to dominate the numbers at between 45,500 and 48,000 in most projected years.

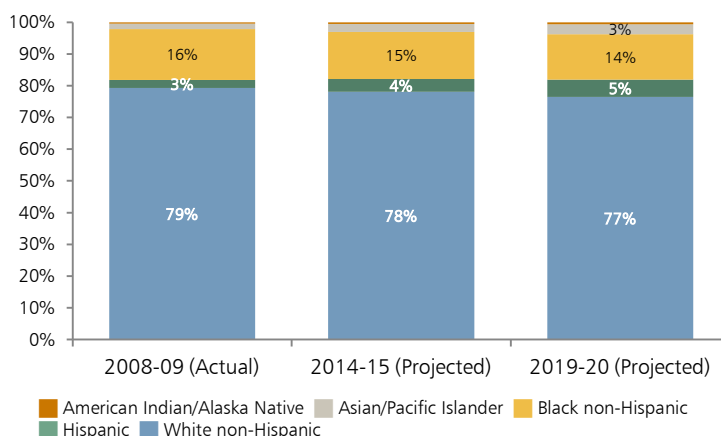
- Black non-Hispanics will decline from the projected near-term high of 9,972 in 2010-11, to 8,500 by 2020-21, after which they will rebound to between 9,100 and 10,000 through the rest of the projections.
- The number of Hispanic public high school graduates more than doubles from about 1,600 in 2008-09 to 4,500 by 2024-25. The number of Asian/Pacific Islander graduates also doubles, from about 1,100 to 2,500 over that same period.



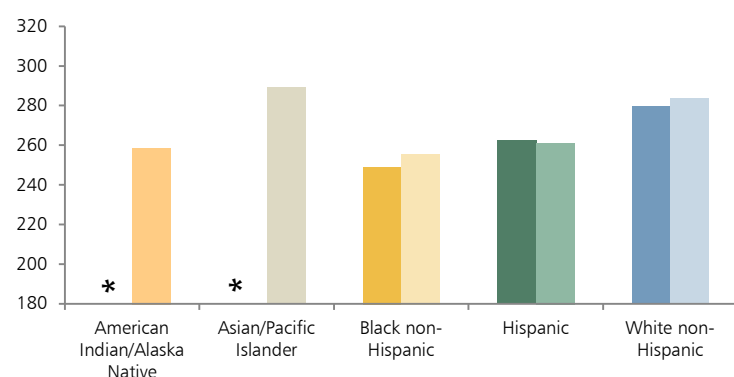
## Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

79% of Missouri's public high school graduates were White non-Hispanic in 2008-09, but they will decline slightly to 74% by the end of the projected period, 2027-28. The slight overall changes in public graduates' racial/ethnic composition are a result of relatively small declines in White non-Hispanic graduates and relatively rapid and notable growth of certain non-White graduates.

- Hispanic graduates will increase from 3% to 7% of public graduates from 2008-09 to 2027-28, and Asian/Pacific Islanders from 2% to 5% over the same years.
- Black non-Hispanics hold relatively steady at 15% to 16% of the total over most projected years.



## Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity<sup>2</sup>



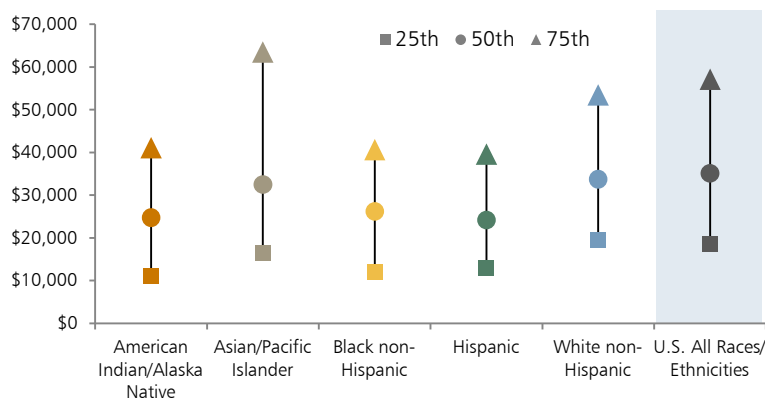
Academic preparation is a major factor in college access and success, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) provides some measure of differences by race/ethnicity.

- The average composite math and reading scores for 8th graders in Missouri in 2011 were 249 for Black non-Hispanics, 263 for Hispanics and 279 for White non-Hispanics; scores were not available for American Indian/Alaska Natives and Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- The available scores for Missouri 8<sup>th</sup> graders were about the same as the national average scores for those groups.

Note: Missouri in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. \*Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

## Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity<sup>3</sup>

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. Among working-age adults (25-64) in Missouri from 2006 to 2010, the statewide median income was \$32,244, compared with \$35,147 for the nation. White non-Hispanics fared slightly better than the statewide median income at \$33,731, but it was nonetheless below the U.S. national median income. Hispanics were the least well off financially among all races/ethnicities with a median income of \$24,183 and one in four Hispanics earning \$13,000 or less. American Indian/Alaska Natives and Black non-Hispanics were about equally concentrated toward the bottom of Missouri's income spectrum with median incomes of \$24,751 and \$25,198, respectively. Only Asian/Pacific Islanders in Missouri were (slightly) above the national median.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at <http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes>.

<sup>1</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate's degree or higher in 2008-10.

<sup>2</sup>Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>. Notes: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 8th graders tested in 2011, scale of 0 to 500; scores for 12th graders taking NAEP were not available for this state.

<sup>3</sup>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. Note: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with \$0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

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